The Miracle, of Miracles. 44

As fearefull as euer was ſeene or heard of in the memorie of MAN.

Which lately happened at *Dichet* in Sõmerſetſhire, and ſent by diuers credible witneſſes to be publiſhed in LONDON.

Alſo a Propheſie reuealed by a poore Countrey Maide, who being dead the firſt of October laſt, 24. houres, 1613. reuiued againe, and lay fiue *dayes weeping, and continued propheſying of ſtrange euents to come, and ſo died the 5. day following.*

Witneſſed by M. *Nicholas Faber*, Parſon of the Towne, and diuers worthy Gentlemen of the ſame countrey. 1613,

With Lincolneſhire, Norfolke, Suffolke, and Kent their Teares For a great deluge, in whith fiue Villages were lamentably drowned this preſent month.

At London printed for IOHN TRVNDLE: and are to be ſold at

BIBLIOTHECA

TO MY LOVING FRIENDS AND READERS IN LONDON.

BELOVED and courteous friends and Readers, wee haue to conſider by this ſtrange diſcourſe, how ready Sathan is to take hold on vs, if wee fall from God neuer ſo little. Hee continually runneth vp and downe, ſeeking whom he may deuoure: But notwithſtanding his temptations, which are great, the mercy of God is greater, who neuer faileth to ſend comfort in temptation, if we accept thereof.

Great are the examples both of Gods mercie and might, to put vs in remembrance of our ſinnes which are infinite and loathſome, wherein if wee continue, let vs vndoubtedly looke for the reward thereof, which is an euerlaſting deſtruction both of bodie and ſoule.

Let not this which is heere declared ſeeme a fained fable vnto thee, but aſſure thy ſelfe that all ſuch things are ſent as warnings for our wickednes, and to put vs in mind of the ſtate of our ſaluation, which

is an assured faith in Christ Iesus: from which piller if wee once shrinke, the Tempter is readie to driue vs into despaire of Gods mercie.

Many are the wonders which haue lately happened, as of sodaine and strange death vpon periured persons, strange sights in the Ayre, strange births on the Earth, Earthquakes, Commets, and fierie Impressions, with the execution of GOD himselfe from his holy fire in heauen, on the wretched man and his wife, at *Holnhurst* in Hampshire; written by that worthy Minister maister *Hilliard*; and all to put vs in minde of God, whose workes are wonderfull.

These and such like examples (good Reader) warneth vs to bee watchfull for the day of the Lord which is at hand, least sodainely his wrath be kindled against vs. Let vs therefore pray to Almightie God to hold back his rodde, to be mercifull to vs, and to forgiue vs that is past: that through the assistance of his Spirit, wee may with penitent hearts liue in his feare to our liues end.

Your friend, T. I.

STRANGE NEWES OVT OF *Sommersetshire.*

VPon the ninth day of Sept. past, there was a Yeoman of honest reputation, dwelling in the towne of Dichet, which is within three miles of Bruton (the most ancient towne within Sommersetshire) whose name is Steuen Cooper, a man of good wealth, and also well beloued of his neighbours: who being sick, and lying in a weake state, sent his wife (whose name was Margaret Cooper) vpon the ninth day of Sept. past into Glocester-shire, to take order concerning a Farme which hee hath in a village called Rockhampton, alias Rockington, at whose comming thither, it seemed all things were not according to her mind. Thus continuing there one day and something more, she returned home to her husband, partly agrieued at such things as she thought her husband might reforme, if God lent him life. Now when she was come home againe to Dichet, shee found her husband recouered to an indifferent health: to whom she began to vse very much idle talke, as well concerning the same Farme, as also concerning an old groat which her sonne (being a little boy) had found about one weeke before. Thus she continued (as it were one that had been bewitched or haunted with an euill spirit) vntill the Tuesday at night following, which night she take her rest something indifferently vntill towards the morning: at which time she began with much vaine speech to disquiet her husband, and to vse much idle talk: but her husband seeing her in such a minde, and finding that she was as it were one that were desperate, he perswaded her to call vpon God, and that being the creature of God, she should not forget to call vpon her Creator in the day of trouble, wherefore he counselled her to pray with him, and to say the Lords Prayer after him, which shee partly did. But the Diuell who alway

doth build the chappel ſo neere as he may to vere Gods church, began to withdraw her from Prayer, and to put her in mind to call in moſt fearfull ſort for the groat which her ſonne had lately found, as alſo for her Wedding Ring, deſiring to ſee them with all ſpeed: her husband made no great haſt thereunto, but continued in Prayer, that it would pleaſe God, to ſend her a more quiet ſpirit and to ſtrengthen her, that faith might ſpeedily vanquiſh ſuch vanity in her. But the more hee prayed and perſwaded her to Prayer, the more ſhe ſeemed to be as it were troubled with ſome euill ſpirit, calling ſtill for the olde groat, which her husband neglected to ſhew her: whereat ſhe began with a very ſterne and ſtaring countenance to look on her husband in moſt vnderfull ſort, ſo that he was ſore frighted with the ſame. Then he called for her ſiſter, for that he was not able to keep her in her bed: which when her ſiſter and other were come into the chamber, they kept her downe violently in the bed: and forthwith ſhe was ſo ſore tormented, that ſhee fomed at the mouth, and was ſhaken with ſuch force, that the bed and the Chamber did ſhake and mone in moſt ſtrange ſort: her husband continued praying for her deliuerance: ſo that within one halfe houre after her ſhaking was left, ſhe began to tell them that ſhe had bin in the Towne to beate away the Beare which followed her into the yard, when ſhe came out of the Countrey, which to her thinking had no head. Then her husband and friends wiſhed her to leaue thoſe vaine imaginations, perſwaded her that it was nothing but the lightneſſe of her braine, which was become idle for want of reſt. Wherefore her husband and friends exhorted her to ſay the Lords prayer with them, which ſhe did, and after took ſmal reſt. And thus ſhe remained vntill the Sunday following: in which time ſhe continued raging as it were beſtraught of her memory, which came by fits, to the great griefe of her husband, friends, and neighbours. Upon the Saterday following there was good hope of her recouery, for that ſhe in the night before had taken ſome reaſonable reſt: her friends and neighbours came to comfort her, yet ſometime ſhe would talke ſomewhat idly to them, which came by ſmall fittes. And vpon the Sun-

day

daylyght seemed to be very patient and conformable to reason, vntill midnight: at which time the Candle, which was set burning in the same Chamber, was burned out. She then suddenly waking, called to her husband, and cried out, saying that she did see a strange thing like vnto a Snaile, carying fire in most wonderfull sort Whereat her husband was amazed: and seeing the Candle was cleane burnt out, called to his brother & sister that were in the house with other of their frends watching and sitting vp, to comfort her if her extreame fit should any way molest her, who hearing her husband call, came in and brought a Candle lighted, and set it on the Table which stood neere where the woman lay. She beganne then to ware as one very fearefull, saying to her husband and the rest: doe not you see the Diuell? Whereat they desired her to remember God, and to call for grace, that her faith might be onely fixed vpon him to the vanquishing of the Diuell, and his assaults. Well (quoth she) if you see nothing now, you shal see something by and by: and forthwith they heard a noise in the streete, as it had beene the comming of two or three Carts and presently they in the Chamber cryed out saying, Lord helpe vs, what manner of thing is this that commeth heere: then her husband looking vp in his bed, espied a thing come to the bedde much like vnto a Beare, but it had no head nor tayle, halfe a yard in length, and halfe a yard in height: her husband seeing it come to the bed rose vp, and tooke a ioyned stoole and stroke at the said thing, the stroke sounded as though hee had stroken vpon a Fetherbed: then it came to the woman and stroke her three times vpon the feete, and tooke her out of the bed and so rouled her too and fro in the Chamber, and vnder the bed. The people then present, to the number of seuen persons, were so greatly amazed with this horrible sight that they knew not what to doe, yet they called still vpon GOD for his assistance: but the Candle was so dimme, that they could scarsely see one another. At the last this Monster, which wee suppose to be the Diuell, did thrust the womans head betwixt her legges, and so rouled her in a round compasse like an hoope through three other chambers down an

high

high paire of staires in the Hall where hee kept her the space of a quarter of an houre. Her husband, and they in the chamber aboue durst not come downe to her, but remained in prayer weeping at the staires head, grieuously lamenting to see her so carried away. There was such an horrible stinke in the Hall, and such fierie flames, that they were glad to stop their noses with cloathes and napkins. Then the woman cried out, calling to her husband. Now hee is gone. Then (quoth he) in the name of God come vp to me. And so euen vpon the sodaine she was come so quickly, that they greatly marueiled at it. Then they brought her to bed, and foure of them kept downe the cloathes about the bed, and continued in prayer about her. The candle in the Chamber could not burne cleere, but was very dimme, and suddenly the woman was got out of the bed, and the window at the beds head opened: whether the woman did vnpin the window, or how it came to passe they knew not, but it was opened, and the womans legges after a marueilous manner thrust out of the window, so that they were clasped about the posts in the middle of the window, betweene her legges. The people in the chamber heard a thing knock at her feet as it had been vpon a Tubbe, and they saw a great fire, as it seemed to them, at her feet, the stinke whereof was horrible. The sorrowfull husband and his brother imboldeu themselues in the Lord, and did charge the Diuell in the name of the Father, the Sonne, and the Holy Ghost to depart from her, and to trouble her no more. Then they laid hands on her, and cryed to the Lord to help them in that their great need, and so pulled her in againe, and set her vpon her feet. Then she looked out at a window, and began to say, O Lord (quoth shee) me thinke I see a little Child: but they gaue no regard to her. These words she spake two or three times. So at the last they all looked out at the window: and loe they espied a thing like vnto a little Child with a very bright shining countenance, casting a great light in the Chamber, and then the Candle burned very brightly, so that they might one see another. Then they fell flat to the ground, and praised the Lord that hee had so wonderfully aided them, and so the Child vanished away. Then

the

the woman being in some better feeling of her selfe, was laid in her bed, and she asked forgiuenes at Gods hands, and of all that she had offended, acknowledging that it was for her sins that she was so tormented of the euill spirit. And so God be thanked she hath euer since bin in some reasonable order, for there hath bin with her many godly learned men from diuers places of the Countrey.

These bee the Names of the VVitnesses, *that it is most true.*

Steuen Cooper.
Iohn Cooper.
Alis Easton.
Iohn Tomson.
Iohn Anderton.
Myles Foster.
With diuers others.

THE WONDERFVLL WORKE of *God* shewed by a Propheſie of a poore Countrey mans *Daughter*. 1613.

Vpon the firſt of October laſt paſt, 1613 There was a marriage ſolemniſed at Roſtorſe, a mile diſtant from Melwing in Germany betweene one Iames Graniſen, an honeſt townes man, and one Margret Henſlers, the daughter of Hans Steeman of Melwing, deceaſed. This Iames had beene ſeruant and Clarke vnto the worſhipfull maiſter George Ramittes Gentleman, the time of twelue yeares, who was by his maiſter and ſundry other perſons of good calling) brought to the church, and at their returne were conducted to his Maiſters houſe againe. who had prepared for him and his gueſts a ſufficient Feaſt at his owne coſt & charges: and although this Iames was but a husbandmãs ſon, yet was he be loued of the whole inhabitãts, & that of the chiefeſt ſort. Thus was this Feaſt kept in good order, with great loue and quietneſſe: mixing with their meat honeſt mirth, well liked and noted of ſundry Nobles and Gentlemen, being preſent at the ſame feaſt, and inhabiting thereabouts.

The next day following, a young maide of the age of fourteene yeares, being Siſter to the Bridegroome, came to the wedding houſe to her brother, bringing with her the daughter of one Simon Franikin of Melwing: both which after they had ſeene the houſe, and in what order thinges ſtood, were deſirous to ſee the Daughter of the Worſhipfull Maiſter George Van Ramittes, whoſe name was Mikris Annis: who being in the Chamber, they both went to viſite her, and doing their duties they demanded how ſhe did: ſhe anſwered indifferent well. Then the two maides ſate downe by her, where together they conferred of many matters, eſpecially as concerning their attire and apparell.

The

The Bridegroome, before specified, had made his Sister a like vpper body, with which she had drested her selfe as handsomely as she might, and withall she wore the best and seemliest apparell that she had put on for that day. But the Gentlewoman seing it, began to flout at her, saying: Can thy Father cloath thee thus, and seeme so poore? Alas Pittresse (quoth the Maiden) hitherto my poore Father hath alwaies to his power apparelled me: but this which you see, my Brother hath bestowed on me, to doe him honestly at his marriage: God knoweth who shall weare it out, how long I shall owe it, or when I shall put it on again. And though we be poore in goods, I trust God will make vs rich in Spirit, and so she held her peace, departing for a fine Cake and Wine, wherewith they made merry. Soone after, the Citizens daughter that was well apparelled (and somewhat vaine-glorious withall) said that her mother gaue her all things she could get, but her Father was so hard, that she might not weare that she had, but was faine to keep it from his sight. The Gentlewoman replyed, saying: my Father biddeth me weare what I will, and if it were not for greefe vnto the Nobilitie, he would apparell me like a Princes: and therwithall she caused sundry faire Jewels and Chains to be taken forth of her Chests, which were very curiously wrought, and caused great admiration vnto the beholders. The poore Countrey Maide that knew no pride, nor had any such attire to boast on, held her peace, accounting her selfe with her povertie, as acceptable before GOD, as the richest or fayrest of those fine Dames present: saying inwardly to her selfe, Gods a iealous God, he hateth Pride, hee punisheth the vnrighteous, he comforteth the poore, which haue no delight therein: and maintaineth them that are continually bent to the service of him.

After that all together had talked their pleasures, to their contentment: every one severally take their leaue one of another, and after a while departed to the houses of their Parents.

The third day after this Marriage was solemnized, all the ioy was turned into heauines, for the death of two of the Maidens before mentioned: namely, the Daughter to the Gentleman, and the Sister of the Bridegroome, who died both

in one afternoone, betweene three and foure of the clock. This ſodaine death, brought great terrour and feare vnto their Parents, and alſo to the hearers thereof, inſomuch that ſome thought them to be poyſoned, and other gaue forth their iudgements according to their fantaſie.

The next day after, preparation was made for their buriall: Nicholas Faber, Parſon of that Village, would haue had them both buried in one graue, but the gentleman would not. Great lamentation was made for both theſe Maidens, the Gentleman and his friends, for the loſſe of his Daughter: and the Father and Mother, with her Brother and friends, for the loſſe of their godly Child. Now the Mother of this poore Maid vnderſtanding that her neighbours were in hand to winde her vp, and ſo to ſend her to the earth: came vnto them and deſired that ſhe might yet once more ſee her Daughter, which they willingly granted: ſo they went altogether to the dead corps, (which had been laid forth, the full ſpace of two and twenty houres) and the Mother lifted vp the ſheete, ſighing, purpoſing then to take her laſt farewell, and ſight of her deare Daughter, whom ſhee ſo tenderly loued. But contrarie to her expectation, and of all the beholders, her Daughter, euen as one awaked from a ſlumber, raiſed vp her ſelfe, and with a milde and cheerefull countenance, ſpake vnto her Mother as followeth. My moſt deere Mother, why haue you ſinned ſo ſore againſt God? You haue made me ſorrowfull many times, but bee you content, God hath forgiuen all, for I am ſent as a meſſenger to you, and within fiue daies I ſhall returne againe to the place I came from, where I ſhall liue in all peace. Therewith they fetcht her cloathes, which ſhee put on, and walking with them, ſhe demanded meate.

This ſodaine ſight amazed the beholders, for they looked for ſome other meaning in it. But whereas this Maide was ſeldome before ſeene to be merry, They now perceiued her more cheerefull, and with a pleaſant diſpoſed countenance, ſo that the apparant ſhow of her geſture was wonderfull to behold, then meate was brought, and ſhe did eate in all mens ſight, diſgeſting it naturally.

Diuers of the cheefe of the Towne came see this strange euent, where after many speeches by them vttered the Maide required silence, and to them all she said.

Beloued Christians, wonder not that I haue bene a short time from you: but be thankfull to God, that he hath certified you by sundry signes, how the end of the world is at hand, and the day of rest comming to reioyce vs: Our charge shall bee taken away, and our trauaile haue an ende: Let vs make our selues ready against the Sabaoth of our Sauiour, the onely true Sonne of God. Let vs now with pure hearts, prepare to meete the heauenly Bridegroome, that with him wee may enter into his euerlasting Kingdome, where we shall enioy eternall life.

Maister Nicholas Faber, (Parson of the Towne) demanded of her where she had beene? To whom she answered: I was ouertaken neere the bridge of the Broke, by a comely old man, with a long gray Beard, who saluted mee, saying, Daughter, whether wilt thou? Is thy Father at home? I answered yea. Then said he to mee, come my louing Daughter, I must needs talke with thee, and tell thee that which as yet is hidden from thee, for great effect dependeth thereupon. And be not afraid, let the grace of God suffice thee, and looke that you conceale not my words, but reueale them to others: tell what I shew you, vnto olde and young.

So we came to a faire cleare Plaine, (no Princes Court like it, nor any earthly building to bee compared vnto it,) where we were let in. In which place, we saw many bright Angels, shining like the beames of the Sunne all singing melodiously with cleare voyces: Holy, holy, holy, is our Lord God of Sabaoth. Among which I knew a great number. But the old man forbad me to speak vnto any. Forthwith I was brought again to the Broke, where he ouertook mee: I became very pensiue, when I thought of the worthines of the place where I had bin.

But the old man, willed me to rest contented, for this short time shall quickly haue an end, and within fiue daies thou shalt be brought againe into this place.

He willed me, besides, to manifest (vnto the Penitent) the

mercy of God, & to say vnto the world, that he is bent to wrath: cheefly to those that despise, and giue no credite to his examples, which hee miraculously hath shewed vnto his people. These are but warnings sent vs, to mollifie our hard hearts, and to admonish vs from the detestable Pride, which is heere maintained, because before God you shall finde it damnable.

O people full of contempt despising one an other, some for Riches, some for Beauty, others for Wisedome, some for one thing, some for an other: where as before God, we are all alike with him, poore & rich, notwithstanding, he will not go forward with his anger he will hold his hand, & moderate it with mercie, if he find but some small number, penitent for their sinnes.

If you amend not, and turne to God, he will forthwith send on you a generall alteration, and such an one, as not only men, but Birds of the ayre and all liuing things, shal tremble at his wrath, Marthes shall greatly greeue the earth, and they shall destroy Countreyes and people: Men shall be most greeuously chased from their houses, and most miserably murthered. And before this happen, there shall come a great dearth: and then God will take his owne that haue turned vnto him, not suffering them to see this misery: but those that liue after, shal truely feele the wroth of God, so that those which remaine in the third yeere shall well say, Where haue you beene, that you are not yet destroyed? Many for feare shall decay: there shall bee great Earthquakes, through which Towns and Steeples, Castles, Forts and houses shall be thrown down on heapes. Then shall follow such mischap, as is not necessary to be spoken of, for the sin of the people is abhominable & cursed before God.

After this great and terrible trouble, there shall great peace arise, and the people shall liue in great tranquillitie: there shall be want of learned men, and good Rulers: wherefore good people, let this terrifie your pride, being euen the whole puddle of sinne, and the roote of abhomination.

The clothes which Mistresse Annys did weare, for the Pride and vaine-glory of her Parents, they shall become loathsome to all persons, whereby none shall be able to weare them, but shall remaine as a necessarie example to all persons. This

speech

ſpeech twiſe ſpoken, was marked of many: and others were inquiſitiue, to ſee the clothes: which being ſtirred, there aroſe a great and deteſtable ſtinke, that no man could either weare them, or abide by them. Which ſtrange thing, the good Gentlewomen her Mother conſidering: rouſed the ſaid Chamber to be walled in, ſo that none may come to them any way. Thus the Maid continued in theſe and ſundry ſuch other ſpeeches.

In the meane time, diuers learned Preachers came vnto her, and talked with her, as concerning Spirituall matters, which ſhe was glad of. To whom ſhe yeelded hartie thankes, ſignifying to them, that the fifth day was now come, wherein ſhee ſhould be taken from the world. But before ſhee departed, ſhee was deſirous to receiue the Sacrament, and Chriſtian Communion of the body and bloud of Chriſt, which Maiſter Nicholas Faber did miniſter vnto her: And all that day he did reaſon with her: to whome ſhe vttered ſuch godly reaſons, as it made him marueilouſly aſtonied.

Many people came to ſee her at that day, to ſee what would fall out. Then meat was brought, and ſhe ſat downe at the Table, ſhe ſaid Grace, thanked God, and bleſſed her Father and Mother, inſtantly deſired her Brother, that he would honour his Parents, and not to leaue them in their olde age: in ſo doing, he ſhould be rewarded with the bleſſing of God.

Maiſter Faber came now againe to viſite her (as his manner was) and he ſaid vnto her, how doe you? To whom ſhe friendly gaue her hand, and ſmiling, thanked him of his paines which he had taken with her.

Then for a laſt farewell, ſhe rehearſed all the warnings to the people, deſiring them, not to be vnmindfull of them: And anone after, betweene one and two of the clocke, patiently ſitting in a Chayre, ſhe committed her Soule to God, and yeelded vp the Ghoſt. Being the 6. of the ſaid Moneth of October.

1613.

FINIS.

THE NAMES OF CERTAINE men of good worſhip and credite, that were then preſent.

Maiſter *Nicholas Faber*, Parſon of the ſaid town
Maiſter *George van Ramittez*.
Maiſter *Ioachim Schiell* of *Melwing*.
Maiſter *Peter Schulban* of *Melwing*.
Adam Dorhoff of *Margenberg*.
Hans Ronneman, *Scowt* of the Towne.
Maiſter *Stephen*.
Lawrence the Schoolemaiſter.
Hans Lidwig: And *Peter Barchart*.

Maiſter *Knact Clighton*, *Berger* and Superintendent *of* Melwing, *had the examination of the truth, before it was* publiſhed in Print.

LAMENTABLE

Newes out of *Lincolne-ſhire* of the ouer-*flowing of waters, breaking from the Seas, which* drowned 5. Villages with all their goods and cattell, *with other places of the Land, this preſent month* of Nouember: 1613. to the great hurt of many people there dwelling.

BODLEIANA PUBLIOTHECA

At London printed for *Iohn Trundle*: and are to be ſold at Chriſt Church gate. 1614.

THE OVERFLOWING OF *Waters, breaking from the Seas in the County of Lincolne*, with other places of the Land, this present month of Nouember, to the great hurt of many people there dwelling.

IF we doe consider the estate of mankind aright, we shal finde by experience how sodaine is his fall, & wast the man that hath lined many years carefully getting together wealth in abundance, in a moment is vndone, and brought to nothing, as for example this present month of Nouember, brings vs sufficient witnes, wherein Lincolne-shire, that plentiful Country, that soile so large and ful of increase, as well of Cattell as other foules of the earth, hath lately felt the vnresisting force of waters, by the raging & vnruly winds blowne ouer the sea Bankes, where many hundreds of people, were euen forced by the sodainnes thereof to shift for their lines, leauing all the substance they enioyed, to the mercy of the commanding flouds.

And now to beginne the discourse of my lamentable reports, neere vnto the towne of Wisbige, one of the principall market townes in that county of Cambridge, is situate a village called Long sutton, a place for husbandry & pasture grounds answerable to most in that countrey, but by reason of the marshy & fenny vallies adioyning to the same, the most part thereof hath been lately ouerflowed: for the wind then sitting, North & North-east, beating the seas so violently against the shores, by which meanes the commanded waters exceeded their bounds with such

force, that their mighty bankes were not able to containe them.

At the first entrance of this watery conqueroar, it is said it apeared to the inhabitants a far of, like vnto a cloud rouling out of the skies, or a storm of raine, by the winds blowne nearer and nearer, but approching to the sight of men, it seemed to bee a second deluge: a feare so sodaine, that well was that man that by flight could preserue his life: not one place, not one field, not one village, nor one towne receiued hurt by the ouerflowing of these waters, but many: yea, many were the losses comming thereby: for it is well knowne, and by true reports iustified, that néere vnto Long-Sutten aforesaid, some eighténe or twenty villages had share of this lamentable spoile, & as much ground ouerflowed as is compassed in the circuite of sixténe miles, all the low parts of that country stood like the maine Ocean, or the Zarick seas betwixt Holland and Zeland, where nothing is left in sight aboue waters but pinacles and Church steeples: so was heere at that wofull time, nothing séene but the vpper parts of houses, and the tops of trées: the fury and strength of the salt waters thus broke in so preuailed, that they ouerturned whole stackes and Ricks of Pease and Beanes, and carried them away like floting ships into the maine ocean.

It is also credibly reported, that aboue two thousand head of cattell, besides many thousands of sheepe perished in the same floods, and no newes of them as yet to be heard of, but onely some few, scattering heere and there, floting vpon the waters ten or twelue myles from the owners, the rest are supposed to be worn into the sea, whose deuouring wombe is able to drench vp all the wealth that remaines vpon the land, for the sea is much more larger and richer then all the world beside; therefore let vs pray that the Lord with his mighty and strong arme, may keepe vs from the rigour of this mercilesse inuader, and so strengthen

then her bankes, that ſhe may be kept within hir bounds, otherwiſe vnhappy ſhall we be in this Northerne part of the world, but now againe to our purpoſe.

At thoſe Villages bordering neareſt vpon the ſea coaſts many of the inhabitants were forced in ſafeguard of their liues to clime the tops of trées, and there ſate ſtaruing in the cold day & night, vntill Boates came to preſerue them, likewiſe vpon houſe tops, and the Leads of churches, ſafe both men, women, and children, whoſe frighted friends ſuppoſed them to be buried in the déepe waues: but amongſt all theſe lamentable reports, this one is moſt wonderfull of a Lincolne-ſhire man that ſwemme a long mile bearing his wife and two children vpon his backe to ſaue them from drowning, whoſe loue and aduenture herein deſerueth a perpetuall commendation: likewiſe diuers men of that countrey were forced to riue vpon horſes ſwimming alſo at leaſt two miles euen to ſaue themſelues: to ſpeake truth, in this extremitie nothing was cared for but peoples liues, wherein as yet few are knowne to haue periſhed: for according to the cuſtome of that country, they haue boates and other meanes alwaies in readineſſe prouided againſt the dangers of ſuch ouerflowing waters, but of goods and cattell ſuch a ſpoile was made in leſſe then fiue dayes, that the loſers thereof will hardly recouer their former eſtates in ſeuen yéares following; God of his mercy pitty their caſes, and in his bounty relieue their wants, for great pouerty is now fallen vpon the woefull inhabitants of that countrey. Behold I ſay, the eſtate of man, one day rich, the next day poore: the one day aliue, the next day dead: no certainty of this worlds proſperitie, no aſſurance of wealth, all things variable, all in a moment deſtroyed.

Let vs call to minde the like miſhap ſome fiue yeares ſince in the Weſt parts of England, where the waters of the Sea were violently driuen ouer their Bankes by a

South west wind, as these were opposite to them with a Northeast, where likewise many a wealthy village sustained much hurt hardly recouered at this day: now Lincolnshire thy sorrowes may compare with theirs, the waters haue emptied thy pastures of increasing cattell, as they did their fields: such is the cruelty of this liquid element, for if it is rebell and get beyond his bounds, it is able to inuade a whole kingdome, ouerturne Townes & Towers, and deuoure vp all liuing creatures therein remaining: let this one thing following be a sufficient president, to make knowne the strength of these head strong waters straying from their soueraigne Prince the maine Ocean, for the abundance thereof came into the lowest marsh grounds of that countrey, with such sodain violence, that a strong built house, wholly as it stood, without splitting or separation, was borne like a ship vppon the waters, two miles from the place where it last was builded, the people remaining therein hauing no hurt, but safely set vpon a hill side, and so preserued from the further danger. Another strange accident happened in the same County. The salt waters, most seafaring affirme, are of a greater strength then the fresh or the land water, and is able to beare vp what others will suffer to sinke, so was it heere approoued, for a woman lying in Childbed, was borne with her Child, bed and all safely floting vpon the waters, with the house wherein she remained lying, for her best safety, in a close bearded chamber, vntil such time as the waters abated, and so miraculously preserued from death. It is also to be marualled, that at the last when the waters fell and returned to their owne abiding, which is the sea, there were found vpon the land abundance of fish of diuers sorts, which the waters had left behind, the like seldome seene or heard of. Contrariwise the sea made an exchange, & for her fish receiued into her watry wombe the like number of flesh: as horse, kine, sheepe, swine and

flesh

such like, to the great hinderance of that part of this kingdome.

I will not grieue the owners with the remembrance of their losses in other goods, as corne, hay, and other houshould stuffe: as bedding, linnen, woollen, and such like, which these turbulent waters spread abroad, and made prizes to pilfering Vacabonds, it is a lamentable case, when the two elements of Fire and Water gets liberty, for then is no mercie, but meere confusion.

Not onely Lincolneshire can complaine of the seas oppression, but diuers countries bordering vpon the shores, which the easterne part of Essex can well witnes: what goodly grounds and fayre pastures haue been there ouerflowed: what heards of kine and shepe haue beene there drowned: what long time spent for the recouerie to the great charge and halfe vndoing of the owners, nay further a hinderance to the whole Countrey.

With griefe of heart I now call to minde, the great losse and hinderance of an honourable Lord of this land, hapning this present month of Nouember, in the said County of Essex, where many a hundred akers of gallant ground, closing [illegible] the sea coast, is quite ouerflowed, standing now li[illegible] White Sea, hardly euer to be recouered. Losse of many thousand pounds, which might haue relieued the estates of many thousands of poore people: God is angry with vs, in changing this land habitation, into a watery ocean, which by little and little, seekes to steale the whole earth into her insearchable and deep circumference.

Goodwin sands vpon the borders of Kent is likewise one of the Seas cruelties, which sucking landy gulfe hath deuoured so many goodly Ships, many other breaches giues the Sea passage into the Land threatning our destruction. The wealthy riuer Thames presents vnto our remembrance diuers violent passages of water, which

from

from time to time begets feare and care vnto our Country, ioyned with a continuall toyle for the recouerie.

Come nearer home to our famous Citie of London, and thinke vpon the strange tydes there swelling, this last weeke this beginning of November, almost still remaining before our eyes, how at Queene-Hithe the water flowed into the Peale-market, and bore sackes and vessels of meale vp and downe the streetes, and drowned many vaults and sellers, to the great hurt and spoile of much goods and commodities. God of his mercy keep vnder this outragious element, let it not gather head and goe beyond the bounds: for being kept vnder gouernment, it is a sweete good, and comfort to vs all: so is the element of Fire, both good being well vsed, and both euill if once abused, from the which if they once get command, let vs vse this prouerbe or rather Prayer,

from fire and water good Lord
deliuer vs.

FINIS.